The Member thanked the Government for having declared 'Ramzan' and 'Bakrid' as public holidays as a result of repeated representations in the Assembly. He requested that 'Barawafat,' the most holy day for Mahomedans, being the birth-day of the Prophet, be also declared a public holiday.

The Member pointed out that the subject of the removal of the Koran from the courts had been pressed on the attention of the Government during the previous sessions of the Assembly, but that nothing had been done in the matter. The removal of the Koran from courts would not cause any loss to Government nor evoke any complaint or criticism from the Mahomedan community. The swearing in court by a Mahomedan could be done even without a copy of the Koran. The Member therefore prayed for the removal of Koran from courts.

136. Suggestions for the amelioration of the present condition of Muslims.

Mr. P. S. Mahomed (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for declaring two Mahomedan holidays (*Ramzan* and *Bakrid*) as public holidays. He said that the other 3 Mahomedan holidays were also public holidays in other parts of India, and requested that at least *Barawafat*, the most important of those three days might be declared a public holiday at once. He next complained that Mahomedans were not receiving their due share of encouragement in the Sirkar service, although several G. O's. and circulars had been issued on the subject. He said that no departments except the Education Department contained any Mahomedan and requested Government to examine the caste-war lists of appointments made in the several departments during the last 3 years. Even in the Education Department Muslims did not receive adequate encouragement, while in the Judicial Department, not even a clerk's post was given to a Mahomedan during the last three years. He said that, when small posts had to be filled, heads of departments generally preferred men of other communities, and that, when permanent vacancies occurred, the claims of Mahomedans who had acted on several occasions, were overlooked and other persons who entered the service later were appointed. He also regretted that the Government did nothing when the just claims of Muslim officers were overlooked by heads of departments. He instanced the case of a Muslim District Superintendent of Police who, when acting in that appointment, was senior to others, but had been superseded by others when he was confirmed in that post. He also referred to the recommendations of Mr. Cunningham in respect of another Muslim officer who brought in a gain of more than a lakh of rupees to the Government through his work in Bombay and other places, and regretted that such an officer was being persecuted by the present Commissioner of Police. In the Excise Department, Mahomedans were not receiving the promotions legitimately due to them, in spite of what he had stated on the subject in the previous year. He referred to the case of a Mahomedan who was promoted only as an acting Inspector for two months, while many others who were junior to him were confirmed in that grade. He also referred to Mr. Sheik Haider, a Petty Officer, spoken of by him last year, and to Mr. Ahamed Sait about whom certain queries raised by a deputation had still remained unanswered. In the Secretariat also certain Mahomedans entertained before its reorganisation in 1098 did not get any promotion, and that a Mahomedan graduate acting on Rs. 50 was not only not confirmed, but had his pay reduced to Rs. 40 subsequently. The Member pointed out a vacancy in which that clerk might be confirmed. He referred also to the only Mahomedan clerk in the lower grade in the Secretariat who, though senior to all other acting clerks, was not confirmed when a permanent vacancy occurred.

The Member next pointed out that there was no permanent grant-in-aid Vaidyan, and requested that men like Sultan Pillai of Kazhakuttam and V. Bappu of Alleppey might be given grants-in-aid. There was an overseas-returned man in his community and he regretted that that man had not yet been provided with a footing in the public service.

The Member next represented that in the Registration Department qualified Mahomedan employees did not get the promotions due to them and prayed for due promotions being given to them.

Lastly, the Member suggested the appointment of a committee to collect detailed information on the subject of *wakfs* in Travancore so as to enable the Government eventually to enact a law on the subject.

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The Member then laid much stress on the teaching of Arabic to Mahomedan pupils, as that was the very foundation of their education. He referred to the G. O. *re.* Mahomedan education issued in 1919, and prayed that all the concessions announced in that G.O. might be given effect to promptly. The Member referred to the discussion in the Legislative Council on the principle of fee concessions and feared that, in the light of the remarks made, it was likely that the Government might go back on the Mahomedan G. O. He, therefore, requested that any further steps that might be taken might not prejudice their interests in the matter of education or affect the fee and other concessions granted to them already. His next prayer was that the number and amount of scholarships for Mahomedan pupils might be increased. The Member also requested that Form VI might be opened in the Mahomedan High school at Alleppy immediately and that provision be made for the study of science in that school. The Member represented, in conclusion, that primary education should be made compulsory among Mahomedans.

President's reply.—Your representation that *Barawafat* should be declared a public holiday for the State will be considered.

As regards the *wakf* Act, I may point out that, though it has been passed in Northern India, it has not been accepted in Madras. Your request relating to that matter is noted.

As regards the continuance of half-fee concessions to Mahomedans, your representation will be carefully considered when Government pass final orders on the subject of fee-concessions now under reconsideration.

Your suggestions as regards increasing the number and amount of scholarships will be considered at the time the report of the Scholarships Committee is taken up.

As regards the opening of Form VI in the Mahomedan School, Alleppey, Government will consider the matter. The Inspector states that it is only a week since his office received a representation on the subject from the Mahomedan public of Alleppey. There are only 15 students in Form V and the strength of Form VI would be still less.

As regards compulsory education for Mahomedans, as I have already stated, the policy of Government is not the introduction of compulsion in respect of education. Your suggestions are, however, noted.

Your representation as regards special privileges being granted to Mahomedans in the matter of admission in the public service is also noted.

As regards the site for the Mahomedan College at Alwaye, at first you were not very enthusiastic about it. Since you appear to be keen about it now, Government will consider your suggestions.

Government will write to the Director of Public Instruction about your suggestion for teaching Koran during school hours.

Government will also consider your suggestion regarding the award of grants to Koran teachers even in schools which contain only 16 Mahomedan pupils.

As regards the site for the Tiruvankod school, a reference had to be made to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil and his opinion has been now received. The matter will be decided shortly.

With regard to the question of establishing a school at Chirayinkil, the Director informs me that, when the leading Mahomedan gentlemen of the locality were addressed on the subject, there was no response from them. Further enquiries will be now made and the matter disposed of as early as practicable.

The Government wrote to the High Court about your objection to the Koran being kept in courts. The High Court have replied that such of the Mahomedans as have objection to swear by the Koran may solemnly or even simply affirm, and that the Koran has to be kept in courts for the sake of those who wish to swear by it.

VII EDUCATION—(*Concluded*)

137. Educational concessions to Mahomedans.

Mr. Nagur Miran Miranan Miran Rowther (Member, Nominated) conveyed the gratitude of the Mahomedan community for the concessions already granted to them in the sphere of education. He then spoke about the changes effected in the outlook of the community by education. It had however to be stated that the community had not

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